

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 8-9, 11-12, 15-20, 22-23, 28-30, and 33 are rejected.

Claims 1 and 20 are hereby cancelled. By this amendment, claims 2-19, 22-25, 28-31 and 33 are amended. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 13, 14, 31 and 32 if written in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 13 to include all the elements of base claim 1, and have amended claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 14-19 to depend on amended independent claim 13. Claim 31 has also been amended to include all the elements of base claim 20, and claims 22-25, 28-30, and 33 are amended to depend on amended independent claim 31. Claim 32, as previously presented, also depends on claim 31, and therefore, should be in allowable form. These claims should now all be in condition for allowance.

Claims depending on an allowable claim are also allowable. Withdrawn claims 4-7, and 10 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly on allowable claim 13, and so should also be allowable. Withdrawn claims 21, and 24-27 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly on allowable claim 31, so should also be allowable. Accordingly, rejoinder and allowance of these dependent claims is respectfully

requested.

It is noted that throughout this response, where Applicants provide that a dependent claim overcomes the prior art based on it being dependent on a patentable independent claim, absence of an argument specific to the rejected element is not an admission that the cited prior art discloses that element or that Applicants are in agreement with the Examiner's comments. Additionally, as all claim elements must be taught for a claim to be anticipated or obvious, evidence that only one is not present is sufficient to overcome a rejection. Therefore, if one element of a claim is noted as not disclosed in the prior art, this does not mean Applicants admit to all other elements being disclosed.

CONCLUSION

Based on the Amendments and Remarks above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. Applicants welcome any further discussion with the Examiner to move this case toward allowance.

Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account no. 13-3405 for any deficiencies or overages in connection with this response.

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By:

Respectfully submitted,
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